

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a listing of the presently pending claims.

1. (Previously Presented) A forging method including a plurality of press operations to form a product, the method comprising:

spraying a workpiece with lubricant more than once, said workpiece already having been heated due to a machine related earlier press operation prior to a press operation of forming the workpiece is conducted, at least one of the spraying with lubricant operations being conducted when the lubricant sprayed in a preceding spraying operation has been dried; and

after the lubricant sprayed in a final spraying of said workpiece has been dried, forming the workpiece via said press operation.

2. (Previously Presented) A forging method as recited in claim 1, wherein the workpiece is a constant-velocity universal joint outer race.

3. (Previously Presented) A forging method as recited in claim 1, wherein a temperature of the workpiece ranges from 150 to 250 °C due to forming heat when the workpiece is sprayed with lubricant.

4. (Previously Presented) A forging method as recited in claim 1, wherein the lubricant sprayed before a forging procedure is performed is a water-dispersive lubricant containing a solid lubricant agent, a lubricative and dispersive adherent agent and a wetting and vaporizing accelerating agent, and the lubricant during the forging procedure is a solid lubricant agent.

5. (Previously Presented) A forging method as recited in claim 1, wherein the formed product is cup-shaped.

6. (Previously Presented) A forging method as recited in claim 1, wherein the formed product is shaft-shaped.

7. (Previously Presented) A forging apparatus, comprising:
an extruding apparatus that comprises a plurality of press stages, wherein a workpiece is successively transferred to the plurality of press stages of the extruding apparatus; and

a conveying unit for successively transferring the workpiece comprises a plurality of nozzles for spraying the workpiece with lubricant, wherein the workpiece and the plurality of nozzles are located in fixed relative positions with respect to each other in spraying the workpiece with the lubricant, and wherein lubricant is sprayed from the plurality of nozzles in different directions, and the nozzles spray the lubricant in a

sequential fashion, and after the lubricant sprayed from the plurality of nozzles has been dried, more lubricant is again sprayed from the nozzles or after the lubricant sprayed from one of the nozzles has been dried, more lubricant is again sprayed from another of the nozzles.

8. (Previously Presented) A forging apparatus as recited in claim 7, wherein the spraying with lubricant is conducted intermittently.

9-10 (cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A forging apparatus as recited in claim 7, wherein the workpiece is a constant-velocity universal joint outer race.

12. (Previously Presented) A forging apparatus as recited in claim 7, wherein a temperature of the workpiece ranges from 150 to 250 °C due to forming heat when the workpiece is sprayed with lubricant.

13. (Previously Presented) A forging apparatus as recited in claim 7, wherein the lubricant sprayed before a forging procedure is performed is a water-dispersive lubricant containing a solid lubricant agent, a lubricative and dispersive adherent agent, and a wetting and vaporizing accelerating agent, and the lubricant during the forging

procedure is a solid lubricant agent.

14. (Previously Presented) A forging apparatus as recited in claim 7, wherein the formed product is cup-shaped.

15. (Previously Presented) A forging apparatus as recited in claim 7, wherein the formed product is shaft-shaped.